2012 BIG GAME DRAWING INFORMATION

APRIL 2012

DEADLINE TO APPLY

To qualify for the Big Game Drawing, premium deer, elk, antelope and bighorn sheep application(s) must be submitted and the sales transaction(s) completed before midnight on June 2, 2012. **Mail-in and faxed worksheets will not be accepted.**

CALIFORNIA BIG GAME HUNTING BOOKLET

The 2012 California Big Game Hunting booklet contains proposed hunt information for deer, elk, antelope, and bighorn sheep. The booklet will be mailed in April and is also available on online at www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/digest.

Hunters should read the Big Game Hunting booklet for complete information on applying for the Big Game Drawing and other hunting items.

Information on the enclosed worksheet and applying as a party is located on the back of this newsletter.

2012 HUNTING LICENSES & BIG GAME APPLICATIONS ON SALE APRIL 15

Beginning April 15, you may begin applying for the 2012 Big Game Drawing at any Department of Fish and Game (DFG) license sales office, license agent, via the telephone at (800) 565-1458 or online at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols/.

Identification Required

The first time you purchase a license through the Automated License Data System (ALDS) you are required to provide identification. This ensures DFG has an accurate record of our license customers and that your preference point totals are tracked accurately. Please see the 2012 California Big Game Hunting booklet for the list of acceptable forms of identification.

Get Outdoors (GO) ID

The first time each customer applies for any license they are issued a permanent Get Outdoors Identification Number or GO ID. Your unique GO ID is printed on every item issued from ALDS. It is used to retrieve your customer information each time you purchase a license or apply for drawings or look up drawing results. Your GO ID is also used to track your Big Game preference points.

Internet & Telephone Purchases

In order to purchase hunting items online or by telephone, hunters must have proof of hunter education on file. All hunters who have purchased hunting items via the ALDS and most hunters that have applied during the last five years in the annual Big Game Drawing will have proof of hunter education on file.

IMPORTANT! When purchasing tag(s) online or by telephone, hunters must wait for the tag(s) to arrive in the mail before hunting for that species. Please allow 15 days to receive any telephone or mail fulfilled items.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2012

A1 Premium Tag for 2012

A1 is a premium tag for 2012. The 2011 tag quota for A1 filled before the first business day in July 2011. Regulation requires that any hunt where the tag quota fills by this date is designated as a premium deer hunt for the following year. All premium hunt tags are issued through the Big Game Drawing. Applications for this hunt must be submitted by June 2, 2012.

Submit Your Big Game Harvest Reports Online

Beginning with the 2012 season, hunters have the option to submit successful and unsuccessful, big game tag report card information via DFG's Online License Service at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols/. Hunters logged into the website will be able to view all their tags that require harvest reporting. Hunters submitting reports online will receive a report confirmation number and will not have to mail in the report card.

DFG encourages all hunters (including those who were unsuccessful or who had a tag but did not hunt) to use this new service to meet their reporting requirements.

Accurate harvest information is a crucial element in developing population estimates and the resulting tag quotas as well as in assessing the performance of current hunt programs and in creating new hunting opportunities. An online reporting option provides information more timely to DFG and is more efficient and convenient for the hunter. DFG anticipates that Internet reporting option will be available beginning in July 2012.

FUND-RAISING RANDOM DRAWING TAGS

Kelso/Old Dad Mountains Bighorn Sheep Tag

DFG has added one Kelso/Old Dad Mountains Bighorn Sheep tag to the Fund-raising Random Drawings. This sheep tag allows the hunter to hunt in the Kelso/Old Dad Mountains zone with any legal method. The hunt dates are from November 3, 2012 to February 3, 2013.

The successful tag holder must attend the DFG's mandatory bighorn sheep hunter orientation meeting before the tag is issued. As an added bonus, a private entity, San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters, has offered free guide services for the hunt.

Northeastern California Pronghorn Antelope Tag

DFG has added one Northeastern California Pronghorn Antelope tag to the Fund-raising Random Drawings. This antelope tag allows the hunter to hunt in any of the Northeastern antelope zones, (Mount Dome, Clear Lake, Likely Tables, Lassen, Big Valley and Surprise Valley) with any legal method. The hunt dates are from July 28, 2012 to September 16, 2012.

FUND-RAISING RANDOM DRAWING TAGS (cont.)

Open Zone Deer Tag

An Open Zone deer tag allows the hunter to hunt during the authorized season dates of any deer hunt, using the specific method and meeting any special conditions of the tag for that hunt.

Owens Valley Tule Elk Tag

An Owens Valley tule elk tag allows the hunter to hunt in any of the Owens Valley zones (Bishop, Tinemaha Mountain, Tinemaha, West Tinemaha, Independence, Whitney and Lone Pine) with any legal method. The hunt dates are from July 28, 2012 to August 26, 2012.

Who can apply?

Any person 12 years of age or older as of July 1, 2012 is eligible to apply for deer, elk, or antelope. Applicants must be 16 years of age or older as of July 1, 2012 to apply for the big horn sheep tag. The entry fee is \$5.66 per application. Hunters may apply as many times as they wish. Successful applicants are not required to pay an additional fee for the tag(s).

LIFETIME LICENSES

Lifetime license holders will receive a separate letter with instructions on how to claim their 2012/2013 California lifetime hunting license and tags. Licensees may redeem their lifetime license at any DFG license sales office, license agent, online, or by telephone.

BIG GAME DRAWING WORKSHEET

The enclosed preprinted Big Game Drawing Worksheet is for your use only when applying in the annual Big Game Drawing. The worksheet is not required to apply. However, bringing the completed worksheet to the sales location when applying will expedite the application process and ensure you are connected to your preference point records. The sales clerk can scan the barcode (your GO ID) at the top of your worksheet to retrieve your customer information.

Your preference point totals for each species are listed at the bottom corner of the worksheet. For 2012, the maximum number of preference points for any species is 10. If you have any questions regarding your preference point totals, please e-mail point@dfg.ca.gov.

CHECK YOUR BIG GAME DRAWING RECEIPT(S) CAREFULLY!

Hunters will receive a Big Game Drawing Receipt for each species for which they apply. Please verify the information on the Big Game Drawing Receipt(s) before leaving the sales counter. If any of the information is incorrect, the sales clerk can cancel the document and enter a new application. For corrections after the transaction date or corrections to Internet submitted applications, hunters must contact the DFG's License and Revenue Branch at (916) 419-7573 or e-mail point@dfg.ca.gov.

APPLYING AS A PARTY

When submitting an application for a deer, elk or antelope drawing you will be prompted as to whether you are:

- 1) Applying alone or creating a new party (party leader)
- 2) Joining an existing party

The first member of the party to apply is considered the party leader and should indicate they are creating a new party. They will be prompted for their hunt choice(s) and issued a Party Identification Number (printed on their Big Game Drawing Receipt(s) at the end of the transaction). **Note:** Every applicant will receive a Party Identification Number printed on their Big Game Drawing Receipt(s). Hunters applying as a party are assigned the same hunt choices in the same order as the party leader.

Party applications can be linked together in the same sales transactions or through separate transactions.

Applying in the Same Transaction

If purchasing drawing applications in the same transaction, the Party Identification Number is not required; however, you will have to indicate that the member is joining an existing party. The sales clerk can select the existing application(s) already in the cart to link the party together.

Applying in Separate Transactions

If purchasing drawing applications in separate transactions, the party leader must provide the Party Identification Number to additional members to 'authorize' them to join the party.

Note: DFG license sales staff and license agents do not have access to a party leader's Party Identification Number(s).

When other party members apply, they must indicate that they are joining an existing party and provide the Party Identification Number(s) to the sales clerk (or enter it themselves if applying online).

When the Party Identification Number is entered in the drawing application screen, it will bring up the hunting party information. The sales clerk should confirm that this is the correct party with the purchaser. If this is not the correct party, the sales clerk can cancel and re-enter the Party Identification Number. If correct, the sales clerk can confirm and this will link the new member to the party. (**Note**: If applying online, the confirmation screen will display for the customer with options to cancel or confirm).